

MERRITT AT THE AGENCY

Uninterrupted March to the Scene of Massacre.

HIDEOUS SPECTACLE PRESENTED.

Bodies of Agent Meeker and the Employes Found.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN REPORTED SAFE

Entire Disappearance of the Hostile Redskins.

AN EFFORT IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]
WHITE RIVER AGENCY, Oct. 11.
Via RAWLINS, WY., Oct. 13, 1879.

At last the goal is gained about which so much mystery had gathered, and the worst is known. Soon after General Merritt received Captain Payne's command was strengthened by a company of the Third cavalry, and Company H, of the Fifth cavalry, numbering eighty-three men besides officers. These companies arrived on the 7th, and Companies E, K, H and I, of the Fourteenth infantry, reached the command yesterday morning.

MERRITT'S COMMAND.

After sending back Dodge's and the other dismounted cavalry, Merritt found himself with the following troops:—

First—A cavalry battalion, Colonel Compton commanding, consisting of the following companies:—Company L, Third cavalry, Captain Vroom; Company B, Fifth cavalry, Captain Montgomery; Company A, Fifth cavalry, Captain Angaria; Company M, Fifth cavalry, Captain Backe; Company I, Fifth cavalry, Captain Kellogg; and Company H, Fifth cavalry, First Lieutenant Parkhurst.

Second—An infantry battalion, Major Bryant commanding, consisting of Company I, Fourth infantry, Captain Ferris; Company B, Fourth infantry, Captain Gunn; Company C, Fourth infantry, First Lieutenant Webster; Company E, Fourth infantry, Company F, Fourth infantry, First Lieutenant Price; Company E, Fourth infantry, Captain Carpenter; Company H, Fourth infantry, Captain McConie; and Company I, Fourth infantry, First Lieutenant Taylor.

These troops comprised cavalrymen and infantrymen, exclusive of their officers, and were accompanied by about one hundred civilian employes, all armed. Consequently General Merritt had 700 men—with whom to begin his advance to-day on the White River Agency.

DISPOSITION OF THE TROOPS.

The movement was organized and began in admirable style, with the Fourth infantry, under Ferry, on the right; the Fourteenth infantry, under Bryant, on the left; the cavalry, under Compton, in the center, and the transportation train with infantry guards bringing up the rear. By this disposition the infantry took possession of the hills and ridges too rough for the passage of cavalry on both sides of the route. Thus, even with the Utes in force on our front, as they were when Thornburgh advanced, they would have been met at every point by companies to whose assistance reinforcements could be directed at any moment. Scouts felt the way in advance of the troops, but the least said of most of the scouts the better. Ascending a tributary of Milk Creek to the crest of the divide between the Bear and White rivers, the command found itself near the entrance of the narrow and dangerous canyon through which flows Coal Creek, where it was thought the Utes might make a desperate attempt to repel our advance to the agency. The canyon, narrow and precipitous, is hemmed in by mountains on either side and apparently prove strong vantage ground for defence, but the Utes, if they were near, had a wholesome respect for General Merritt's precautionary disposition. Outgullered and probably outnumbered, they offered not even a show of resistance. This skilled canyon passed, the command advanced into a country where an Indian ambuscade became impracticable in face of ordinary military precautions. Therefore the troops, excepting the advance and rear guards, continued the march in column, with the cavalry, of course, in front. Having reached at dark a point from eight to ten miles north of the agency, General Merritt ordered a halt for the night. There were indications along the way that the Indians had retreated in great haste.

VICTIMS OF SAVAGE CRUELTY.

The bodies of four victims of savage cruelty were discovered, and their names ascertained as follows:—

CARL GOLDSTEIN, freight train driver.

JAMES MOORE, a young man from Bainbridge, Mass.

J. M. CLARK, whose name is surmised from its inscription on a flag which he wore.

A soldier, name unknown, who had probably fallen in Thornburgh's fight.

AT THE AGENCY.

This morning the command pushed on to the White River agency, recently presided over by Mr. N. C. Meeker, and found it reduced to still smouldering ruins. All the buildings except one, an unfinished storehouse, had been destroyed by fire. The stockade surrounding the place was a blackened line of upright charcoal, and the whole vicinity was deserted, save by the bodies of the faithful old agent, his employes and his friends. What a spectacle! Encountering it the eyes of our troops, inured at Payne's camp to sights and odors the most horrible, fell and turned away. A hundred yards or so from his late residence lay Mr. Meeker's body, having on it every evidence of having been beaten and dragged about the grounds by chains for some time before his death. A blow had been given him on the head and he was stripped of clothing. The corpse was almost unrecognizable. The other bodies discovered, partially burned or disfigured by Indian barbarities, were gradually identified as those of the following persons:—

Mr. PRICE, formerly of Greeley, Col., whose wife and two children were at the agency.

WILLIAM H. POST, also from Greeley, whose wife and three children are said to be in Yonkers, N. Y.

E. W. ESKRIDGE, whose wife resides at Marshalltown, Iowa, his former home.

FRANK DUSTER, from Greeley, employed at the Agency.

Mr. SHEPARD, first name unknown, from Greeley.

Mr. THOMPSON, initials unknown, also from Greeley.

A SOLDIER'S EXPRESSION.

In view of these blackened ruins, these burnt and bruised and lacerated corpses, the soldiers

who stood around read and spoke of a lesson in regard to the Indian character which Eastern people who never came west of the Missouri river also ponder if they will.

"By God!" exclaimed a trooper, who crossed the yard with his sabre clanking and paused beside Mr. Meeker's corpse. "I don't say anything about Indians shooting at me or any soldier who is hired to fight them. Let them shoot and be damned, but when it comes to murdering and mashing in the head and dragging around in this way the very man whose hand fed and clothed them, to killing the men here who cooked their victuals and dealt them out tobacco, it ought to be too much for even the Connecticut Methodists or Massachusetts Presbyterians."

The cavalryman's sentiment was appreciated by all who stood around and saw the devilish wantonness with which those murders had been wrought. But mercy to the friends and relatives of the poor sufferers impels me to forbear from dwelling longer on the theme.

THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

As for the women at the agency, including Mr. Meeker's wife and daughter Josephine, the latter a girl of eighteen summers, no trace whatever of them has been discovered up to the time of my sending this despatch. The supposition is that they have been carried into a captivity worse than death as hostages to await ransom or slaughter.

The property at the agency not carried away by the Utes consisted chiefly of flour, which they had emptied all about the corral, watching it indiscriminately. A few wagons and agricultural implements lay around burnt.

The agency had some seventeen hundred cattle which had been driven southward, as is supposed, perhaps to the Grand River, but at this moment their whereabouts are as mysterious as the refuge of the Utes. General Merritt has no positive knowledge of the direction of their flight, but the cavalry will attempt to find their trail this afternoon or to-morrow morning.

NOTE FOUND ON A DEAD BODY.

The dead here at the agency are being buried where they fell. Upon Eskridge's body, which lay about a quarter of a mile from the agency buildings, was found a note, as follows:—

WHITE RIVER AGENCY, Sept. 29.—I P. M.

I expect to leave in the morning with Douglas and Lorrain. Ute chief, to meet you. Things are peaceful here. Douglas lies the United States flag. If you have trouble in getting through the canyon to-day let me know at once. We have been on guard three nights, and shall be tonight, not because we know there is danger, but because there may be. I like your last programme; it is based on true military principles.

N. C. MEERER.

This letter was written on the day Major Thornburgh met the enemy and his death. The messenger who bore it toward Thornburgh from the agency was doubtless killed by Utes returning from the battlefield, and the conclusion here is that Meeker and his companions were killed that very night by the savages flushed with their success in outwitting Thornburgh's command.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF MERRITT'S MARCH AND ARRIVAL AT THE AGENCY—DIFFICULTIES WHICH YET REMAIN TO BE ENCOUNTERED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

RAWLINS, WY., T., Oct. 13, 1879.

At half-past one this afternoon two couriers from Merritt, named Emil Weber and George Fuhr, arrived here from the White River Agency, where they left General Merritt and his command. Merritt started for the agency from his previous night camp, seven miles this side, in the White River bottom, early Saturday morning, arriving at the agency between ten and eleven A. M. He found it in ruins, with the members of all the buildings, except a storehouse for flour, still smouldering.

AGENT MEERER'S MURDER.

A hideous spectacle was displayed before the command, and the fate of Agent Meeker, erroneously described in previous despatches sent by way of Denver, was ascertained beyond a doubt. His body, dragged a hundred yards away from the blackened ruins of his home, was found lying on the ground with a trace chain tightly drawn in a loop around the throat. One side of the head had been crushed by some heavy missile, and the whole aspect of the old man's remains proved the mingled ferocity and brutality of his assassins. Seven bodies of men were strewn about the premises or among the debris of the buildings. Three were burned to a crisp and four were killed and stripped or partially denuded.

BODIES OF EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED.

Those who were recognized were supposed to be the remains of the following persons:—

W. H. POST, formerly secretary of the Greeley Colony, shot through the head twice.

Mr. SHAPHERD a man from Greeley, shot through the left breast.

Mr. PRICE, a man of about thirty years of age, in the employ of the agency, whose wife was employed as cook; shot through the head.

E. W. ESKRIDGE, a lawyer by profession, formerly engaged in the banking business at Marshalltown, Iowa, who is reported to have a wife in the insane asylum.

Mr. THOMPSON, from Greeley.

Burt Woodbury, who was known to be at the agency just before the massacre, was not found either dead or alive.

NO SIGNS OF THE FEMALE.

Nor were any signs of the females at the agency, including Meeker's daughter, discovered at last accounts by the troops. The hope, therefore, remains that the women's lives may have been spared by the Utes, who probably killed Meeker and his male companions on September 28, the very day they told Lowery they would do so. All the human remains at the agency appeared to have lain there for many days. There were no Indians near the agency, but the couriers saw signal fires burning on the hills between the agency and Bear River on their return.

ARRIVED FROM THE FRONT.

At three this morning (about five o'clock New York time) Lieutenants John G. Bourke and W. S. Schuyler, of General Crook's staff, arrived directly from the front. When they left Merritt was advancing, but had not yet reached the agency. Lieutenants Bourke and Schuyler, who commanded Merritt's advance guard on the way to the scene of the Thornburgh disaster, are really the first trustworthy persons through from the front who know all about Merritt's movements since he started from Rawlins. They beat the General's couriers back here, making the distance of 120 miles from Bear River, which they left at eight P. M. on the 11th, in thirty-one hours.

REPORT OF MERRITT'S FOET CONFIRMED.

They positively affirm the reports of Merritt's fight with the Utes on the day of his arrival at the Thornburgh battlefield. The Indians having attacked Merritt were glad to quit at the end of two hours, after the men of the Fourth infantry got at them with their heavy rifles. Falling back, they sent in a flag of truce, which was borne by a white man calling himself Joseph W. Brady, who said he was from Mattoon, Ill., and claimed to be an employe at the Uncompahgre Agency, 150 miles south from White River. He explained his presence by saying that O'Urday, head chief of the Uncompahgres, was very anxious to prevent a collision between his people and the whites, and that

when O'Urday heard of the hostile action of the White River Utes he had instantly despatched Serponeiro, his head sub-chief, with a detachment of ten Uncompahgres, to avert further hostilities if possible. This detachment Brady said he was accompanying as interpreter. Although it arrived too late for its original purpose Brady asserted that he was now instructed by Serponeiro to ask General Merritt exactly what he wanted of the Utes, and what he intended to do. General Merritt responded that the rights of all Indians remaining at peace would be strictly respected, but that he had no message of any kind to send to the Utes who were at war and who had committed recent devilities. This answer having been communicated through Brady to Serponeiro the latter retired.

THE REDSKINS RETREAT.

It seems that the time taken up by the parley was used by the rest of the Utes to effect a definite retreat, for, contrary to the reports lately received from settlers, ranchmen and others, no fighting or skirmishing took place, not even after Merritt started from Mill Creek, at eight A. M., the 10th inst., on his advance. At that time, according to Lieutenant Bourke, Merritt had with him 600 fighting men, excluding Payne's and Dodge's dismounted cavalry, left in charge of the wounded, and excluding also Colonel Gilbert's six companies of the Seventh infantry and Henry's and Evan's cavalry, which had not yet joined his command.

AN UNIMPEDED MARCH.

It was with this force of 600 that General Merritt pushed forward last Friday morning. That proverbially unlucky day proved a lucky one, for instead of meeting the opposition he was led to anticipate the General found his march unimpeded throughout the day. No fresh Indian signs were seen: the dreaded coal canyon, where the enemy might have made an effective stand, was deserted. The march was continued without the least resistance until ten o'clock at night, when the command encamped in the White River bottom, only seven miles north of the agency. He would have pushed on to the agency that night had it not been for the darkness.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE SITUATION.

In the opinion of Lieutenant Bourke the Utes had resolved to make their next rally somewhere in the south, and in this connection both Bourke and Schuyler gave an interesting account of the difficulties which confront our troops. Brady, in his interview with Merritt, stated that the Utes claimed to have collected 700 serviceable warriors, but this appears incredible if the Uncompahgres were still at peace, nor did Brady himself affect to believe the statement. The largest estimate of the fighting force of the White River Utes is 285, and it is not yet known whether they have been joined by the Uintah Utes, residing in Utah. One indication that the claim of 700 warriors at present is greatly exaggerated appears in the sudden retreat of the Indians from one of their strongest positions. Still they have plenty of strong positions in reserve, and have done everything possible to render the march of the United States troops in their direction difficult and annoying. The whole country from Rawlins to the White River Agency is reported by Lieutenant Bourke as burnt to a cinder and showing hardly a blade of grass.

SUFFERING OF MEN AND ANIMALS.

So fierce are the winds that blow along the way, lifting clouds of dust continually, that Merritt's force and the soldiers hastening to their support are afflicted almost to a man with sore noses, ulcerated mouths, inflamed eyes and chapped and bleeding hands. Every mule in the wagon train has ulcerated gums. The sufferings of the march are unprecedented, but those to come, augmented by winter snows, will probably be worse. Lieutenant Bourke and his companion, together with other officers who have visited the region, liken the country from Bear River to White River and beyond to those dreaded parts of Arizona which present vertical, deep-faced canyons, from the sides of which a few Indians can impede a force of twenty times their number.

SCARCITY OF GUIDES.

In his invasion of this desolate country General Merritt finds himself almost utterly without guides. Experience has shown that most of those who went out with him are the class of backskin-covered, boasting dead beats, who loom up as hardy frontiersmen at the outset of every Indian campaign, ready to sell their services until military commanders discover them to be worthless. The General has dismissed a whole lot of these gentry of the Plains, who are now on their way back to Rawlins with talk of their own hairbreadth escapes from imaginary dangers. Only three or four guides remain who can be at all trusted, and General Merritt is using efforts to procure the services of Indian guides, whom he regards as indispensable. Some of the Navajos are believed to know the country as well as the Utes, traversing it, as they do every year, to trade away their blankets. A dozen of them came in the day before the Thornburgh disaster to sell some of these celebrated blankets to the soldiers. The Arapahoes also, from their frequent raids into the country of the Utes, who are their hereditary enemies, must be more or less familiar with its bleak and forbidding fastnesses.

LOSSES IN THORNBURGH'S FIGHT.

Lieutenant Bourke says of Thornburgh's fight and the subsequent siege of Payne, who took command, that the official report will record fourteen men killed and forty-two wounded. These numbers, however, do not comprise all the "hits" received, because no man would trouble the surgeon who could possibly avoid doing so. Scarcely a man in the command but was struck by a bullet. The Surgeon, Dr. Grimes, himself received a ball in the shoulder, which nearly disabled him, and a private of the Third cavalry, named De Bar, educated as a druggist, did most of the dressing of the wounds.

THORNBURGH'S BODY—MURDERED TEAMSTERS.

Thornburgh's body, brought in by Cherry, was not mutilated. The Indians had treated it with curious respect, laying him out on the ground, with one arm close to his side, the other folded over his chest, and clasping a photograph of the famous Ute, Jack, a chief who had shared Thornburgh's hospitality only a day or two before.

ON HIS LATEST MARCH TOWARD THE AGENCY

Merritt found two more dead bodies, one the remains of Carl Goldstein, a driver in the employ of a freight contractor for the Interior Department, killed at the mouth of Coal Canyon. His wagon train had been burned and its contents scattered over the ground for hundreds of yards by his savage murderers. The other body was that of a young man whose underclothing was marked "Clark," a supposed employe of the White River Agency. Cherry should endeavor to prevent any resistance to this movement. The troops are now in great force, and resistance would only result in great disaster. The hope is that they will have the Utes surrender, and throw themselves upon the mercy of the government. The guilty parties must be identified and delivered up. We shall see that no mercy is done any more. Resolute action will be protected. O'Urday's recommendations for mercy in individual cases will be respected as far as the general interest is concerned. Agents are being despatched to Los Pinos with further instructions.

C. SCHUYLER, Secretary.

TO-NIGHT ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS WERE TELEGRAPHED

Agent Stanley and special agents have been de-

spatched with explicit orders how to act in the event the White River Utes accept the terms laid down in the above telegram to General Sherman and Agent Stanley. It can be said that the Secretary of the Interior will not under any circumstances approve of any step that proposes to condone this murder of Agent Meeker or the killing of Major Thornburgh and the men of his command.

TERMS FOR THE HOSTILES.

The White River Utes will be met fairly with the statement that they have forfeited every claim to dictating terms; that they must surrender themselves as guilty parties and co-operate with the government in bringing the chiefs responsible for the outbreak to justice. On no other terms will they be permitted to sue for peace.

THE MANTOBA INDIANS.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 13, 1879.

Major Irvine, of the mounted police, who has just arrived from the West, says there is no danger in the Northwest. In case of trouble with the Sioux or other tribes the Blackfeet, whose loyalty is sound, would furnish 1,500 mounted warriors, well armed and equipped.

AMUSEMENTS.

CHICKERING HALL—JOSEFF.

Overture, "Athalia".....Mendelssohn
Concert (2nd half).....Chopin
Adagio, from the Second Symphony.....Saint-Saens
Piano solo. A Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, J. S. Bach
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1. Allegretto Maestoso, S. Allegretto Valse.....List
2. Quasi Andante.....Herr Joseffy and Orchestra.

THE APPEARANCE OF JOSEFF ON HIS CONCERT STAGE

has been looked forward to as one of the most important musical events of the season, and his inaugural concert in Chickering Hall last evening, was attended by the professional as well as the amateur musical circles of the city. Mr. Joseffy is a young man whose studies have been conducted by Moscheles and Carl Tausig, and under the teachings of such able masters his native genius has been rapidly developed. He comes to us heralded by good words from competent critics, and those who are ranked among his admirers have bracketed his name with those of Liszt, Tausig, Rubenstein and von Bülow. "Comparisons are odious," and Mr. Joseffy's excellence is so apparent that he can well afford to ask judgment from an artistic standard and not by comparison with another virtuoso. We might say that he does not possess von Bülow's intellectuality, but that his youth and his warmth add a glow to his music which von Bülow possesses in a lesser degree. The statement might be true in its deductions, and yet the criticism, based on comparison of qualities, gives no correct estimate of his powers. All great musicians possess qualities of their own, which form an individuality by which alone they should be judged. Therefore, with no reference to other players, let Mr. Joseffy be judged by his work before his metropolitan audience.

RETURN OF READY TO LOS PINOS AGENCY—REPORTED SUCCESS OF HIS MISSION.

LOS PINOS INDIAN AGENCY, Colorado, Oct. 9, 1879.

Employe's Brady, who went to White River with the Indian escort, under Chief Sapevoneiro, has returned. The Indians obeyed Chief O'Urday's order mentioned a few days ago. As soon as it was communicated they ceased fighting and moved off. No further trouble is anticipated unless the soldiers advance. Chief Douglas sends word to O'Urday that the women and children, the money and the papers of the agency will be sent here when it is safe to do so. O'Urday does not believe all the employes are killed. He desires the agent's despatch to Washington for a peace commission to investigate the trouble and let the blame rest where it belongs. He is just in from the Southern Ute Agency, with a letter from the agent. A council had been held and the Ute will abide by O'Urday's order. They want peace and will have nothing to do with the White River trouble and request O'Urday to inform the White River Ute of their decision.

CHIEF O'URDAY AND AGENT STANLEY ANXIOUS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE—ACTION OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT—TERMS TO BE ACCORDED THE HOSTILES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]
WASHINGTON, Oct. 13, 1879.

The opinion expressed by the officials at the Interior Department on Friday last to the effect that the report that Agent Stanley had been driven from the Los Pinos agency was untrue was confirmed by the receipt of the following telegram from that agent at the Interior Department this morning:—

LOS PINOS AGENCY, Oct. 9, 1879.

RECEIVED BY INDIAN AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, Oct. 9, 1879.

Stanley, head chief of Indian Affairs, arrived at White River, the Utes recognized and obeyed O'Urday's order: withdrew and will fight no more unless forced to do so. If soldiers are now grouped the Utes will be stopped by a peace commission to investigate offences, and let the blame rest where it may. This will save life, expense and distress if it can be accomplished.

LATER—1:30 P. M.—A runner is just in from the Southern Ute Agency with a letter from the agent. A general council has been held. The Utes will obey O'Urday's request, and will abide at home and take no part in the White River trouble, and request O'Urday to inform them of their decision.

STANLEY, Agent.

I CONCUR IN THE ABOVE.

O'URDAY, Head Chief of the Utes.

CONFERENCE AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

After a brief consultation with the acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Secretary Schurz immediately drove to the War Department for consultation with General Sherman, and together they talked over the situation for some time, the Secretary outlining what he thought ought to be the tenor of the action to be pursued by the army in regard to the hostiles. The purpose of the Utes in submission. It is understood that General Sherman fully acquiesced in the opinion expressed by Secretary Schurz, the latter being even more belligerent than the general in the determination to meet force with force, unless the Utes would surrender unconditionally and trust to the government for mercy toward those who were not the leaders in the hostile and murderous acts.

SHERMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS.

As a result of this conference General Sherman wrote the following, which was at once telegraphed to General Sheridan, with instructions to communicate its purport promptly to General Crook and to Colonel Merritt, commanding the advancing column:—

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 13, 1879.

To General P. H. SHERIDAN, Commanding Division, &c., Chicago.

The honorable Secretary of the Interior has this morning called with a despatch, given at length below, which should go for what it is worth to General Crook and Merritt. The latter on the spot should tell if the hostiles have ceased fighting. If so, General Merritt should go in every event to the agency to ascertain the actual condition of affairs. All Indians who oppose must be cleared out of the way if they resist. If they surrender their arms and ponies they should be held as prisoners to be disposed of by the government.

The Secretary of the Interior will send a special agent at once to O'Urday, who is believed to be honest and our friend. He may prevent the Southern Utes from being involved, and the Interior Department can bet behind him afterward by showing favor to some of his special friends. But the murderers of O'Urday and his employes must be punished, as also those who fought and killed Major Thornburgh and men. Please acknowledge the receipt.

W. F. SHERIDAN, General.

SHERMAN'S RESPONSE TO STANLEY.

On returning to the Interior Department Secretary Schurz telegraphed Agent Stanley as follows:—

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, Oct. 13, 1879.

STANLEY, Agent, Los Pinos Agency.

Your despatch received. Tell O'Urday that his efforts are highly appreciated. The hostiles are in view of the attack made upon the troops and the massacre of the agent and employes, the troops will have to proceed to White River Agency. O'Urday should endeavor to prevent any resistance to this movement. The troops are now in great force, and resistance would only result in great disaster. The hope is that they will have the Utes surrender, and throw themselves upon the mercy of the government. The guilty parties must be identified and delivered up. We shall see that no mercy is done any more. Resolute action will be protected. O'Urday's recommendations for mercy in individual cases will be respected as far as the general interest is concerned. Agents are being despatched to Los Pinos with further instructions.

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